the subsequent inspections, the 'Unsatisfactory' grading of the work is improved to 'Satisfactory' grading. National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) monitors the submission of ATRs. The State Government are to take appropriate action against the concerned officers and the contractors, if the defects observed by Quality Monitors are of non-rectifiable nature.

Technology to ensure effective implementation of Central Schemes

3223. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to State:

(a) whether his Ministry is initiating measures to evolve technologies which ensure effective implementation of Central schemes and to ensure transparency;

(b) if so, whether the use of smart card/chip which the Government of Andhra Pradesh is using to implement NREGA is being considered to make use on large scale;

(c) if so, the details containing the introduction of technology to assess the implementation of schemes; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not taking measures to bring transparency and not considering the break through made in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With a view to ensure implementation and transparency, Web-based information on all the Central schemes are kept in public domain. For National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and Social Security Pension (SSP) Schemes, smart card/chip technology was used in Andhra Pradesh as a pilot project in 8 mandals of Warangal and Karimnagar districts. It has been decided to launch this technology on a larger scale to cover the entire State of Andhra Pradesh in a phased manner. For this purpose, this technology will equally be useful for other banking services like savings, credit, deposits etc.

(d) Does not arise.

Extending financial support to ICRISAT

3224. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Biotechnology is extending financial support to International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) for the setting up a Centre for Excellence in Genomics;

(b) what benefits the said ICRISAT Centre would provide to the country and out agricultural universities;

(c) whether any of our agricultural scientists would be imparted training at the said Centre and in which all areas the research would be focused;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has sanctioned a "Centre of Excellence

for high-throughput allele determination for molecular breeding in crops on 7th December, 2006 at International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, near Hyderabad with the goal of full utilization of modern molecular methods of genome analysis by Indian agricultural breeding and research programmes. The total sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 466.63 lakhs for a period of four years. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 275.07 lakhs has been already released to ICRISAT, Patancheru. The vision of the project will be achieved by providing high-throughput molecular genotyping and phenotyping technologies to a wide range of Indian public and private research and breeding institutes to improve the efficiency of plant breeding. The centre will undertake the following research activities; (a) develop effective and effective technology platforms for enhancing the efficiency of basic research and breeding programmes for a range of Indian crops and species; (b) identify genes, alleles and markers to be used for improving the productivity of Indian crops in drought-prone environment typically faced by farmers in the semi-arid tropics. The centre will offer courses and workships to provide scientists and students from different parts of country in the use of genomics technology in crop research and improvement. The centre will train agricultural scientists from different research institutes and universities of India so that the trained personnel can avail the marker genotyping services at the centre and use them in the breeding programme at their own institutes. The centre has already imparted two training programmes as "Molecular Marker Applications in Crop Genetics and Breeding" (two weeks duration each) to a total of 33 Indian scientists. These include 12 scientics from eight National Research Centres of ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) and 18 scientists from nine state agricultural universities and research stations.

(e) Does not arise, in view of above.

Shortage of eminent scientists in R&D in science related bodies

3225. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is huge shortage of qualified and eminent personnel in the field of Research and Development (R and D) in various sections of science related bodies;

(b) if so, the reasons for this pathetic situation;

(c) what steps are being taken to identify more qualified personnel for recruitment in R and D work;

(d) whether Government is planning to give attractive package to the R and D personnel in order to attract them to these activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Space, Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and other scientific organisations have been experiencing a gap in supply and demand of qualified R and D personnel for the various programmes. This situation has emerged mainly because of better career prospects and remunerative packages being offered by the other sectors of the economy.

(c) to (e) To remedy this situation, the Department of Space (DOS) has set up the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), the Department of Atomic Energy has